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# Grim, Determined President Sets New Monroe Doctrine

WASHINGTON, Apr. 21 — President Kennedy strode quickly to the dais in the gaudy presidential ballroom of the Statler here yesterday to deliver his somber, tight-lipped warning to Khrushchev.

Live Fair

He had worked through lunch at the White House, after a long, pre-dawn stint the night before. He had rushed to the hotel to talk to the nation's editors only minutes before air time.

It was precisely 90 days since the slender 43-year-old had taken the presidential oath. The 90 days, which some over-enthusiastic commentators had said would be like the magic first three months for FDR, must have seemed like nine years to the boyish, tousle-haired President.

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WITH KHRUSHCHEV probing the American nerve a little deeper each day, crisis had followed crisis. The Congo, Laos and finally Cuba had presented the nation with the toughest problems it had faced since Korea. Everything had come to a climax in the last seven days, the worst week a president had lived through since Pearl Harbor.

Now the news from Cuba was clear at last—and it was all bad. The gallant invasion band had been crushed by massive, coordinated attacks from MIG aircraft and Russian tanks. The Cuban invaders had been routed. Castro and his Communist advisers now reigned supreme.

The grim President, after a long night of getting the facts, wasted no words in giving the editors the sober truth. With less than two minutes of preliminaries, he reached the heart of what he had to say.

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"LET THE record show," he declared, "that our restraint is not inexhaustible . . . That we would not hesitate in meeting our primary obligations, which are to the security of our nation."

Applause broke through. A session of an historic moment. The frustration many Americans had felt at the Cuban dilemma eased. For good or ill, here was a new Monroe doctrine. Obvious Communist infiltration of the Western hemisphere was to be met by the United States, in Churchill's historic phrase, "if necessary alone." No longer would we necessarily wait for external invasion before intervening.

Dramatic as was the statement, you could scarcely grasp its full meaning without knowing the unspoken background. In the White House, in the Pentagon, at the State department, they knew the worst.

The Castro defense had proved to be an ugly shock—well coordinated, making massive use of Russian equipment. The MIGs and tanks had been skillfully deployed. The Russian and Chinese Communist advisers had done their work effectively. The pilots had shown their Czech training. The thousands mobilized by Castro had demonstrated unexpected military skill.

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SUDDENLY, it had become apparent that Cuba is on the way to becoming a first-rate Communist bastion. The Central Intelligence agency had bungled badly by not restraining the invaders at this time. It had seriously underestimated Castro's arms, and it had completely missed on the possibility of a popular uprising. The result was fiasco.

Without saying so, Mr. Kennedy took all this into account.

He laid the groundwork for the United States to move into Cuba without the sanction of other South American countries, if that seems necessary to protect the nation's military interests. He warned Khrushchev against going further. He warned Latin America that it sleeps on at its peril.

It was a clean-cut speech, staking out a clear course.

It will not solve every U.S. problem, in Cuba or anywhere else. The alternatives before the country are almost desperate. There are no good answers to many of the problems the Russian drive creates. But Mr. Kennedy raised a standard. He set up a direction. He offered leadership to the nation.

The rest is now up to the people and to the Congress.